National Waterway No. 2

1392. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a study on the development of inland water transport facilities in National Waterway No. 2 (the Bhrahmaputra);

(b) if so, the finding thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government on these findings;

(d) whether the Government propose to procure hover-craft for cargo transportation on National Waterway No. 2; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A study was carried out during 1990 by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) through a consultant to identify the development to be carried out on the river Brahmaputra. This project report recommended development of river Brahmaputra for navigation in 4 phases depending upon traffic projections. The development includes maintenance of fairway, provision of cargo handling facilities including terminals etc. The declared stretch is being developed for shipping and navigation accordingly, in consonance with traffic.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Edible and Synthetic Colours

1393. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have since examined the report of the Technical Committee concerning the ban on the use of edible colours in the reparation of traditional sweets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry have issued any directions in this regard to Ministry of Food Processing Industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether FPI are yet to implement the directions issued in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Expert Group are :

- All the permitted synthetic colours, under Rules, may be considered safe provided these are consumed within the prescribed accentable daily intake limits;
- Keeping in mind the international development in the food processing sector there is a need for indepth examination of the provisions relating to the use of synthetic colours in food items.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Child Welfare

1394. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the statement of Prof. Winer that in India, the reasons for not investing money in child welfare is not poverty but caste prejudices and values of the policy makers of the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and measures being taken by the Government to remove these obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Constitutional and legal provisions do not permit caste prejudices and values to play a role in Government policy making. The National Policy for Children (1974) makes a special provision to ensure equality of opoortunity, special assistance to be provided to all children belonging to weaker sections of the society, such as children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and those belonging to the economically weaker sections. Therefore, the child welfare schemes and measures have been accordingly formulated for implementation.

Kendriya Vidyalayas

1395. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. ANODIA :
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in States at present, State-wise;

(b) the locations in Gujarat where Kendriya Vidyalayas are proposed to be opened during 1996-97;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Governments for opening of more Kendriya Vidyalayas during the year 1995-96 and upto June 30, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?